

CHAPTER 2.1.8

RIFT VALLEY FEVER

Article 2.1.8.1.

For the purposes of this *Code*, the *infective period* for Rift Valley fever (RVF) shall be 30 days.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

The historic distribution of RVF is the African continent, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula.

Countries or zones within the historic distribution of RVF or adjacent to those that are historically infected should be subjected to surveillance.

Epidemics of RVF may occur in infected areas after flooding. They are separated by inter-epizootic periods that may last for several decades in arid areas. During interepidemic periods the prevalence of infection in humans, animals and mosquitoes can be difficult to detect.

In the absence of clinical disease, the RVF status of a country or zone within the historically infected regions of the world should be determined by a surveillance and monitoring programme (carried out in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.5.) focusing on mosquitoes and serology of susceptible mammals. The programme should concentrate on parts of the country or zone at high risk because of historical, geographic and climatic factors, ruminant and mosquito population distribution, and proximity to areas where epizootics have recently occurred.

Article 2.1.8.2.

RVF infection-free country or zone

A country or a zone may be considered free from RVF infection when the disease is notifiable in humans and animals throughout the country and either:

- 1) the country or zone lies outside the historically infected regions, or countries or zones adjacent to historically infected regions, or
- 2) a surveillance and monitoring programme as described in Article 2.1.8.1. has demonstrated no evidence of RVF infection in humans, animals or mosquitoes in the country or zone during the past 10 years.

The provisions of the last paragraph of Article 2.1.8.1. may need to be complied with on a continuous basis in order to maintain freedom from infection, depending on the geographical location of the country or zone.

A RVF free country or zone in which surveillance and monitoring has found no evidence that RVF infection is present will not lose its free status through the importation of permanently marked seropositive animals or those destined for direct slaughter.

Article 2.1.8.3

RVF infected country/zone free of disease

A RVF disease-free country or zone is a country/zone that is not infection-free (2.1.8.2) but in which disease has not occurred in man or animals in the last six months.

Article 2.1.8.4

RVF infected country/zone with disease

A RVF infected country/zone with disease is one in which clinical disease in humans or animals has occurred within the last 6 months.

Article 2.1.8.5

Veterinary Administrations of countries shall consider whether there is a risk with regard to RVF infection in accepting importation or transit through their territory from other countries, of the following *commodities*:

- 1) live ruminants and other RVF susceptible animal species;
- 2) meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants.

Other *commodities* should be considered as not having the potential to spread RVF when they are the subject of *international trade*.

Article 2.1.8.6.

When importing from RVF free countries or zones, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for ruminants and other RVF susceptible animals

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

- 1) were kept in a RVF free country or zone since birth or for at least 30 days prior to shipment, and
- 2) did not transit through an infected zone during transportation to the *place of shipment*

Article 2.1.8.7

When importing from RVF free countries or zones, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the products are derived from animals which remained in the RVF infection free country/zone since birth or for the last 30 days

Article 2.1.8.8.

When importing from RVF infected country/zone free of disease, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for ruminants and other RVF susceptible herbivores

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

- 1) showed no evidence of RVF on the day of shipment;

- 2) were kept in a RVF infected country/zone free of disease since birth or for the last 6 months providing that climatic changes predisposing to *outbreaks* of RVF have not occurred during this time;

OR

- 3) were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with modified live virus vaccine

OR

- 4) were held in a mosquito-proof *quarantine station* for at least 30 days prior to shipment during which the animals showed no clinical signs of RVF and were protected from mosquitoes between quarantine and *place of shipment*

AND

- 5) did not transit through an infected zone with disease during transportation to the *place of shipment*.

Article 2.1.8.9

When importing from RVF infected countries or zones without disease, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

- 1) the products are derived from animals which:
 - a) remained in the RVF disease free country/zone since birth or for the last 30 days
 - b) were slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* and were subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for RVF with favourable results
- 2) the carcasses from which the products were derived were submitted to maturation at a temperature above +2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter.

Article 2.1.8.10.

When importing from a RVF infected country/zone with disease, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for ruminants and other RVF susceptible herbivores

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

- 1) showed no evidence of RVF on the day of shipment;
 - 2) were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with modified live virus vaccine
- OR
- 3) held in a mosquito-proof *quarantine station* for at least 30 days prior to shipment during which the animals showed no clinical signs of RVF and were protected from mosquito attack between quarantine and *place of shipment*

Article 2.1.8.11

When importing from a RVF infected country/zone with disease, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the carcasses are from animals which have been slaughtered in an *approved abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for RVF with favourable results;
2. and have been fully eviscerated and submitted to maturation at a temperature above + 2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter.